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- [0025.5] Fig. 5 shows results from Example 3A(1).
[0025.6] Fig. 6 shows results from Example 3B(3).
[0025.7] Fig. 7 shows results from Example 3B(4).
[0025.8] Fig. 8 shows vector pGEX.
[0025.9] Fig. 9 shows the pBK-CMV-pKe#122 vector.
[0025.10] Fig. 10 shows results from Example 3B(5).
[0025.11] Fig. 11 shows immunoblot results from Example 3(B)(5).
[0025.12] Fig. 12 shows results from Example 3B6 for subconfluent HaCaT cultures.
[0025.13] Fig. 13 shows results from Example 3B6 for confluent HaCaT cultures.
[0025.14] Fig. 14 shows structural data for SEQ ID NO:3.
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Before paragraph [0026] insert the heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION.
Page 21, first line change "CLAIMS" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6, 8-15, 17 and 19 as follows:

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1. (Amended) Isolated polypeptide,
which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes
and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, and
which has the amino acid sequence indicated in either the SEQ ID NO:2 sequence
protocol or the SEQ ID NO:3 sequence protocol, or representing an allele or derivative
obtained through amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion or inversion from one of
these two amino acid sequences.

- sub (12)
2. (Amended) Isolated nucleic acid
that encodes a protein,

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which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, which has the nucleotide sequence indicated in either the SEQ ID NO:1 sequence protocol or the SEQ ID NO:4 sequence protocol, or a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of these two, or a partial sequence of one of these two indicated or complementary nucleotide sequences, or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes wholly or in part with one of these aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

3. (Amended) Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or half-synthetic source.

4. (Amended) Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is a cDNA.

5. (Amended) Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is a sense or antisense oligonucleotide, which encompasses at least 6 nucleotides, and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or sequence protocol SEQ ID N:4 or partial sequences thereof.

6. (Amended) Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is a splice variant, which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:4.

8. (Amended) Recombinant DNS vector molecule, which encompasses a nucleic acid according to claim 2, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

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9. (Amended) Recombinant DNS vector molecule according to claim 8, wherein the vector molecule is the plasmid pUEX-1 or pGEX-2T or pBK-CMV or pHR2.

10. (Amended) Transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2, which is coupled with an activatable promotor contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122.

11. (Amended) Transformed host cell according to claim 10, wherein the promotor is the cytokeratin-14 promotor and the host cell is a keratinocyte, or that the promotor is the CMV promotor and the host cell is a Cos cell.

12. (Amended) Use of a nucleic acid according to claim 2 for manufacturing transgenic mammals, in particular mice or rats.

13. (Amended) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 for manufacturing an antibody against this polypeptide and/or proteins related thereto.

14. (Amended) Use according to claim 13, wherein the antibody is used for the diagnostic and/or therapeutic treatment in particular of dermatological diseases, or for the cosmetic treatment in particular of the epidermis.

15. (Amended) Antibody that reacts specifically with a polypeptide according to claim 1.

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17. (Amended) Reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid according to claim 2.

19. (Amended) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide or nucleic acid, and thereby influence its function and/or expression, in particular acting as inhibitors or activators.

Please add the following new claims:

20. (New) The nucleic acid as recited in claim 5 wherein the oligonucleotide includes 8 to 25 nucleotides.

21. (New) Use of a vector molecule according to claim 8 for manufacturing transgenic mammals, in particular mice or rats.

22. (New) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 7 for manufacturing an antibody against this polypeptide and/or proteins related thereto.

23. (New) Antibody that reacts specifically with a polypeptide according to claim 7.

24. (New) Reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid according to claim 6.

25. (New) Reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses a polypeptide according to claim 1.

26. (New) Reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses a polypeptide according to claim 7.

27. (New) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 7 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide or nucleic acid, and thereby influence its function or expression, in particular acting as inhibitors or activators.

28. (New) Use of a nucleic acid according to claim 2 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide or nucleic acid, and thereby influence its function or expression, in particular acting as inhibitors or activators.

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